

REMARKS

The present application was originally filed with Claims. In the present Restriction Requirement, the Examiner has restricted the Claims into 12 Groups:

Group I: Claims 1-4, 17, 28, and 29, drawn to a cutinase variant having a substitution of Gly at position 59 of SEQ ID NO:2;

Group II: Claims 1-3, 5, 24, 28, and 29, drawn to a cutinase variant having a substitution of Thr at position 177 of SEQ ID NO:2;

Group III: Claims 1-3, 6, 25, 28, and 29, drawn to a cutinase variant having a substitution of Thr at position 64 of SEQ ID NO:2;

Group IV: Claims 1-3, 7, 28, and 29, drawn to a cutinase variant having a substitution of Tyr at position 150 of SEQ ID NO:2;

Group V: Claims 1-3, 8, 26, 28, and 29, drawn to a cutinase variant having a substitution of Tyr at position 182 of SEQ ID NO:2;

Group VI: Claims 1-3, 9-10, 12-16, 19, and 27-29, drawn to a cutinase variant having a substitution of Phe at position 180, Ser at position 205, and Ile at position 178 of SEQ ID NO:2;

Group VII: Claims 1-3, 11, 28, and 29, drawn to a cutinase variant having a substitution of Gly at position 61 of SEQ ID NO:2;

Group IX: Claims 1-3, 20, 28, and 29, drawn to a cutinase variant having a substitution of Arg at position 20, and Tyr at position 112 of SEQ ID NO:2;

Group X: Claims 1-3, 21, 28, and 29, drawn to a cutinase variant having a substitution of Ser at position 205 and Phe at position 207 of SEQ ID NO:2;

Group XI: Claims 1-3, 22, 28, and 29, drawn to a cutinase variant having a substitution of Ser at position 63 of SEQ ID NO:2; and

Group XII: Claims 1-3, 23, 28, and 29, drawn to a cutinase variant having a substitution of Ser at position 85 of SEQ ID NO:2

The Examiner further requires a species election. The Examiner argues that the Groups represent separate and patentably distinct inventions. While Applicants must respectfully traverse the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect the Claims in Group VI (Claims 1-3, 9-10, 12-16, 19, and 27-29, drawn to a cutinase variant having a substitution of Phe at position 180, Ser at position 205, and Ile at position 178 of SEQ ID NO:2). Applicants have withdrawn Claims 4-8, 11, 17-18, and 20-26, as being drawn to a non-elected invention.


Applicants reserve the right to file Divisional application(s) to pursue these cancelled Claims. In addition, Applicants respectfully request that upon the determination that the presently elected species Claims are patentable, the remaining species be examined as well and the Groups rejoined. Applicants also believe that this Restriction Requirement is overly extensive and that at least some of the Groups should be joined together. The basis for all of the sequences recited in all of the Claims is SEQ ID NO:2. As the same basic search will be done for all of the Claims (*i.e.*, SEQ ID NO:2), and the Claims are all in the same class and subclass, Applicants respectfully submit that there should be no added burden on the Examiner to search multiple Groups at the same time. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that these Groups be joined.

In regard to the Examiner's question regarding the dependency of Claim 10, Applicants respectfully submit that the dependency is correctly recited as being to Claim 1, rather than Claim 9.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, he is encouraged to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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